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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,845	03/21/2001	Masanobu Kanazawa	826.1712/JDH	1450

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP  
SUITE 700  
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER
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CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/812,845

Applicant(s)

KANAZAWA, MASANOBU

Examiner

Michael Cuff

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2006.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-22 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3,5-22 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 objected to because of the following informalities: Newly added limitation, “for communication to a server computer who is not a member of ...” does not make grammatical sense. The examiner is assuming it is suppose to read – for communication to a server computer for a member of ...-- Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 15-17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by King et al. King et al disclose a system for ordering items from an electronic catalogue including a public catalogue 106 (first network address) and a private catalogue 110 (second network address) for selling items at special prices to special groups that have volume purchase agreements or corporate contract discounts or are special trading partners, see col. 4, lines 15-25.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al in view of Kepecs.

King et al disclose a system for ordering items from an electronic catalogue including a public catalogue 106 and a private catalogue 110 for selling items at special prices to special groups that have volume purchase agreements or corporate contract discounts or are special trading partners, see col. 4, lines 15-25. King et al also disclose in col. 5, lines 6-10 that customer access control is used to inhibit or permit access to particular databases. However, King et al do not disclose the particular access control of judging if a customer is a member of a particular group based upon an address or > route used by the customer to gain access. Kepecs discloses in col. 9, lines 35-63 that identification keys used to gain access to special promotions may include the address of the customer or the e-mail address of the customer or various other personal identification information. The e-mail address is advantageous because it is easy to remember. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the showing and teaching of Kepecs that any personal information, including an e-mail address, may be used as part of the access control disclosed in King et al. in order to take advantage of using easy to remember controllers.

5. Claims 9-14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being system for ordering items from an electronic catalogue including a public catalogue 106 and a private catalogue 110 for selling items at special prices to special groups that have volume purchase agreements or corporate contract discounts or are special trading partners, see col. 4, lines 15-25. King et al also disclose in col. 5, lines 6-10 that customer access control is used to inhibit or permit access to particular databases. However, King et al do not disclose a certification information storage unit for storing information for certifying a constituent member of a particular group. Kepecs discloses in col. 9, lines 16-27 a key database for storing identification information for each of the customers that allows the customers to gain access to the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the showing and teaching of Kepecs to maintain a database of customer identification information in the system of King et al to be used as part of the access control disclosed in King et al.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/23/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant cites three advantages of the invention over the prior art on the bottom of page 10 and top of page 11. These advantages are not in the claim language and therefore, not relevant.

Applicant asserts that the combination used for claim 5 would be hindsight. The examiner does not concur and has elaborated the motivation in the rejection to make it clearer.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 9/15/06  
Michael Cuff  
September 15, 2006